

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 OIC-02 /080 W
-----262335Z 053554 /21

R 261115Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1420
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1111

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, FI
SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD CONFERENCE: COMMENTS ON FINNISH DELEGATION

REF: (A) HELSINKI 1023, (B) HELSINKI 1087

1. AFTER FURTHER FOLLOW-UPS WITH EMPLOYER AND WORKER DELEGATES, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS DURING RECENT AFL-CIO VISIT HERE, EMBASSY BELIEVES MOST MEMBERS OF FINNISH CONTINGENT IN GENEVA WILL BE GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITIONS AT ILC. AT MEETING MAY 18 OF ALL FINNISH DELEGATION MEMBERS IT WAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED THAT FINNS WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO. NO DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES WERE TAKEN BUT CONSENSUS WAS THAT CONTINUED US PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZATION IS A MAJOR FINNISH OBJECTIVE IN ILC.

2. IN ADDITION TO DELEGATION MEMBERS LISTED REF BN FINNISH AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA, PAAVO KAARLEHTO, WILL PARTICIPATE IN ILC. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO EMPLOYER DELEGATION, HE WILL DEFER ON POLITICAL ISSUES TO
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RAIMO SALMI, WHO WILL HAVE PRINCIPAL INCLUDENCE IN SHAPING POSITION PAPERS ON ANY QUESTION TO BE REFERRED BACK TO MFA FOR DECISION.

3. PRINCIPAL DELEGATES ARE ALL EXPERIENCED IN ILO MATTERS, EXCEPT FOR WORKER DELEGATE ERICH, WHO WAS PRESENT IN GENEVA FOR ONLY FEW DAYS LAST YEAR AS

ALTERNATE AT HIS FIRST ILC. ALTHOUGH PERCEPTIVE AND
BASICALLY PRO-WESTER, ERICH TENDS TO BE DOGMATIC
ON ISSUES ON WHICH HE DOES NOT FULLY SHARE US VIEWS,
SUCH AS FEASIBILITY OF AVOIDING POLITICIZATION IN ILO.
EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT IN ANY LOBBYING WITH FINNISH
WORKER DELEGATION EQUAL ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO ALTERNATE
DELEGATE VIRTANEN, WHO WAS LAST YEAR'S WORKER DELEGATE
AND HAS GOOD GRASP OF ILO PROCEDURES AND APPRECIATION
OF NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY. VIRTANEN, LIKE MANY IN
FINNISH LABOR MOVEMENT, DISAGREES WITH US POSITIONS
ON SOME ISSUES SUCH AS POLITICIZATION AND TRIPARTISM,
BUT IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH HAVING US REMAIN IN
ILO. AS RESULT OF IVP GRANT TO US LAST YEAR, VIRTANEN
HAS ALSO EXPRESSED BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US RELATION-
SHIP TO ILO.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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